

efforts and tie up more money and personnel in enforcing the travel ban against Cuba—as the president proposed two weeks ago—is an incredible waste of resources.

This legislation is likely headed to conference committee, where GOP leaders must make sure the Cuba language doesn't mysteriously disappear. Congress ought to make clear its resolve to end the pointless flogging of Cuba. The embargo only intensifies the misery of the long-suffering Cubans while shortchanging U.S. economic and political interests. That makes no sense at all.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

CONGRATULATIONS TO MRS. LILLIAN S. ROBINSON

• Mr. BUNNING. Mr. President, I pay tribute and congratulate Mrs. Lillian S. Robinson of Mt. Sterling, KY on her selection as a 2003 Experience Works Time Award honoree.

Mrs. Robinson was nominated for this award for her dedication to the education of the children of Kentucky. A youthful 83, she serves as the assistant director of the Community Education Program in Montgomery County, where she organizes volunteer programs including Pee Wee Basketball, the Cookie Candy Club and Parent-Child Tea.

The citizens of Kentucky are fortunate to have the leadership of Mrs. Robinson. Her example of dedication, hard work and compassion should be an inspiration to all throughout the Commonwealth.

Congratulations, Mrs. Robinson for receiving the 2003 Outstanding Older Workers award. You have my most sincere appreciation for your work and I look forward to your continued service to your of our Commonwealth.●

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE FRENCHBURG JOB CORPS

• Mr. BUNNING. Mr. President, I pay tribute and congratulate the members of the Frenchburg Job Corps of Mariba, KY on their "Make A Difference Day" program.

The Frenchburg Jobs Corps conducted a wide-ranging program of community service in Northern Kentucky. From cleaning parks to building handicap accessible ramps to visiting the elderly, these Kentuckians truly made a difference on October 24, 2003.

The citizens of Kentucky are fortunate to have the leadership of the Frenchburg Job Corps. Their example of dedication, hard work, and compassion should be an inspiration to all throughout the Commonwealth.

They have my most sincere appreciation for this work, and I look forward to their continued service to Kentucky.●

CARL AND FLORENCE CONTER'S 60TH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

• Mr. KOHL. Mr. President, I rise today to honor Carl and Florence

Conter, lifelong residents of Wisconsin, on their 60th wedding anniversary. The country dance they met at began their life together blessed with family and friends to celebrate these years.

The couple was married at Holy Cross Catholic Church in Mishicot on November 6, 1943. Florence joined Carl on his family homestead in Two Creeks where he was born and lived for 85 years. It remained an active dairy farm until the late 1960s. Recently they have moved to Mishicot.

Today, many years after that first country dance at which they met, their story continues. Their children have grown up to be successful adults themselves, providing Carl and Florence with three grandchildren and four great grandchildren. Family life and faith has been a rewarding and sustaining part of their long relationship. Carl supports Florence in her advocacy of senior citizen issues. They both enjoy playing sheephead and belong to several card clubs.

I join their many friends and their family in celebration as we honor Carl and Florence Conter on their 60th wedding anniversary. They are the very best Wisconsin has to offer, and I wish them continued joy and happiness.●

JAMES "JACK" MEEHAN: IN MEMORIAM

Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I rise to share with my colleagues the memory of a remarkable man, James "Jack" Meehan of Santa Cruz, CA, who died on Saturday, October 25, 2003. Throughout his life he compiled an extraordinary record of devotion to his family, his community and our Nation. Jack was an 84-year-old longtime Santa Cruz resident, former Santa Cruz City Planning Commissioner and Santa Cruz Port District Commissioner, pilot, space industry pioneer, community volunteer and beloved husband, father and grandfather.

Jack was born and raised in Brooklyn, NY. He married Brenda McGourty in 1942 and she remained his devoted partner for 57 years until her death in 1999. Jack and Brenda had three children: daughter Diana and sons Terry and Tom.

He served as an Army air corps pilot in Europe during World War II. After his plane was shot down, Jack's bravery helped him successfully evade capture. We will always be grateful for Jack's heroic service defending our Nation, our freedoms and our way of life.

During the 1950s, Jack put his aviation skills to use as a Viking rocket designer and tester in New Mexico. He was a pioneer in this field because the Viking rocket was a precursor to the Vanguard rocket which launched America's first satellite.

In 1959, Jack and his family settled in beautiful Santa Cruz. Jack tested satellites at Lockheed Martin in nearby Sunnyvale. He continued to pilot small planes until he gave that up in 1977. But of course, Jack's irrepressible spir-

it kept him very active, and he began boating in the Monterey Bay. Like everything Jack did, he gave boating his all and joined the Coast Guard Auxiliary, assisting in sea rescues. He also taught weather forecasting and radio communications.

In 1981, he was appointed to the Santa Cruz Port Commission, a position to which he was twice re-elected over the next 17 years. He also served as a Santa Cruz City Planning Commissioner.

After Jack retired, he was a devoted volunteer for the Santa Cruz County Red Cross. He built HAM radio systems, travelled and practiced his French language skills. Recalls his son Tom, "Sports cars, TV's, HAM radios and computers were all puzzles to be unwrapped with his tools and insight."

His daughter Diana commented, "I most admire that he was brave and loving. He was romantic, tender and funny with my mother. He was a caring father." Throughout his life, Jack was constantly helping anyone in need. As one friend and neighbor explained of Jack and Brenda, "they always served the community."

Jack had a wonderful sense of humor. Even when he was sick and in the hospital, his caregivers would leave the room smiling because of his joking. "He had a quick wit that was kind, playful and relentless. He had a distinctive Jack Meehan laugh and you could find him in airports and crowded restaurants by that laugh," remembered son Terry. Added son Tom, "Whenever asked about his favorite time of life, he would always respond 'right now, and in the future.'"

James "Jack" Meehan is survived by his daughter Diana, sons Terry and Tom and six grandchildren. He was an exceptional man.

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Mr. Williams, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The nominations received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

At 12:29 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Ms. Niland, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bill and joint resolution, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 1720. An act to authorize the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to carry out construction projects for the purpose of improving, renovating, establishing, and updating